

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 7, 2003, Applicants submit the following remarks and respectfully request for a withdrawal of all the outstanding rejections and objections. Claims 1, 3-5 and 9-12 are currently considered. The Examiner allowed claims 9-12, for which Applicants really appreciate. Among rejected claims, claim 1 is an independent claim and claims 3-5 are dependent from the claim 1.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 - 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,084,579 issued to Hirano (Hirano Patent) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0171060 A1 (Hirano Publication). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites an organic EL device, comprising an organic EL substrate including a second insulating substrate, a transparent electrode, an organic EL electrode and a metal electrode, among other things.

None of the cited references disclose such features by itself or in combination with others. The Examiner alleges that Hirano Patent discloses all the limitations but for “a metal electrode” and it could be found in Hirano Publication. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner.

The Hirano Patent does not disclose “an organic EL substrate” as recited in claim 1 of the present application. As the Examiner admitted, the Hirano Patent does not disclose a second insulating substrate that is a base of “organic EL substrate”. The Examiner simply asserts that the second insulating substrate is conventional and not shown in the drawing of the Hirano

Patent. However, unlike the Examiner's assertion, the Hirano Patent does not disclose an organic EL substrate. To the contrary, in the Hirano Patent, the EL element is formed on the thin film transistor (TFT) array substrate. "Each pixel 75 includes an organic EL element and ... the organic EL element 10 are preferably laminated on a transparent insulator substrate in the named order." (col. 11, lines 24-47 of the Hirano Patent) The insulator substrate 2 of the Hirano Patent is a TFT array substrate where TFT is formed as a switching device. Therefore, Hirano Patent does not disclose an organic EL substrate.

The Examiner further asserts that the missing elements of metal electrode from the organic EL substrate can be found in the Hirano Publication. However, the alleged metal electrode A in Fig. 13 of the Hirano Publication is patentably distinct from the metal electrode as recited in claim 1 of the present Application. Like the Hirano Patent, the metal electrode A is also formed on the TFT array substrate as clearly illustrated in Fig. 13.

Therefore, 1 is patentable over the Hirano Patent and Hirano Publication. Likewise, claims 3-5 that are dependent from claim 1 are also patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that all the outstanding objections and rejection over claims 1 and 3-5 be withdrawn and pass those claims to issuance.

Other Matters


The Examiner indicated that claims 9-12 have allowable subject matter. Please pass claims 9-12 to issuance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1, 3-5 and 9-12 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: March 10, 2004

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